



Standards & Assessment UPDATE

From the Standards and Assessment Division

March 30, 2001

California English Language Development Test

New ELD Test Replaces District Assessments

Districts will conduct the first annual assessment of English Learners through the California English Language Development Test (CELDT), from May 14 through October 31, 2001. This newly-established examination is required by law for English Learners and replaces current assessments used by districts to identify newly-enrolled English Learners in Kindergarten through grade 12, monitor their progress in learning English, and help reclassify them when they become proficient in English. Schools will be allotted \$1.50 per student assessed in addition to the general funds and other funding allowed for training, administration, and scoring of the CELDT.

Districts may score CELDTs used for initial identification of newly-enrolled students prior to sending the completed booklets to the scoring contractor to ensure appropriate instructional placement. Thirteen Regional Training Centers have been established throughout the state to help ensure that all examiners are fully trained to administer the CELDT and score the listening/speaking and reading/writing portions of the test. Examiners must be proficient English speakers, and they do not need to be bilingual. Special funding has been allocated to each Center to support CELDT training within a region.

A panel of teachers and other practitioners from the field are scheduled to meet at the end of this month to establish proficiency levels for the CELDT, using field test data. Cut scores will be set for the following English proficiency levels: beginning, early intermediate, intermediate, early advanced, and advanced.

For more information about materials or administration, contact the CTB CELDT Hotline at (888) 282-0525. For information about CELDT training, contact the CELDT Training Centers. The CELDT Training Center contacts are at www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/eld (Internet). General questions about the CELDT should be referred to the Standards and Assessment Division at (916) 657-3011.

GSE Schedule For 2002

GSE To Offer Testing Windows

In order to better serve teachers and students in California, the GSE program will offer testing windows, rather than designated testing dates, for the winter and spring administrations in 2002. This will allow district and school staffs to schedule the GSE around other testing dates or school activities. The testing windows schedule will be announced within the next two weeks.

Results Coming for 2000 National Assessment of Educational Progress

Results from the 2000 administration of the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) are scheduled for release in three subject areas. Release of national results for reading in grade 4 is set for April 6, 2001. National and state results are scheduled to be released for mathematics, grades 4 and 8, in July 2001; and for science, grades 4 and 8, in September 2001.

The next NAEP administration will assess reading and writing in grades 4 and 8, beginning in February 2002. Schools and districts will be contacted between September and December 2001 to participate in the statewide sample. It is important that as many schools and districts as possible participate to obtain valid results for California.

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Standardized Testing and Reporting Program

Standards Test Schedule Discussed for Inclusion in 2001 API

At the State Board of Education meeting in March, no actions were taken that immediately affect the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program; however, there was Board discussion of the following items:

- California Department of Education (CDE) staff was asked to explore including the results of the spring 2001 California Mathematics, History-Social Science, and Science Standards Tests in the 2001 base API since performance levels for these tests are scheduled for adoption by November 2001. Schools and districts had been notified previously that the 2001 California English-Language Arts Standards Test results would be included in the 2001 base API, but that the other three content areas would not be included until 2002.
- CDE staff was authorized to negotiate with Harcourt Educational Measurement (HEM) to begin the process to establish statewide student identification numbers for all students in grades 2-11.

A New Format for your Convenience

The *Standards & Assessment Update*, produced monthly by the Standards and Assessment Division of the California Department of Education, has been redesigned to better serve the communication needs of districts, schools, and county offices of education. The new format divides the information into two parts: (1) *Standards & Assessment Update* and (2) the *Assessment Notes*. The *Assessment Update* will feature the latest information on state activities and actions at the State Board of Education, the Legislature, and the Governor that impact the development and implementation of the state assessment system. The *Assessment Notes* will focus on operational information that testing coordinators need to successfully implement specific testing programs. The *Update* will be published monthly, and the *Notes* will be published as needed to clarify questions from the field and to respond to time-sensitive issues.

Star Apportionment Checks on Their Way to Districts

STAR 2000 apportionment checks and related information are being sent to districts this week. STAR 2001 Apportionment Information packets were mailed to district superintendents and STAR coordinators on Wednesday, March 21. The 2001 forms are available at www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/star after March 26.

California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

Spring 2001 Testing Counts for 9th Graders

Senate Bill 84 (SB84), introduced by Senator Jack O'Connell in January, which would have changed this spring's administration of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) to a practice test failed to pass the Legislature. This means that ninth-grade students who voluntarily take the test on the designated testing dates in March or May 2001 and pass both parts, do not have to take the CAHSEE again. Students, who pass only one part of the test (English-language arts or math), must take the other part again until it is passed.

Reporting Results for Spring 2001

To report the results of the CAHSEE to students and schools, the State Board of Education at its March meeting directed the CDE to develop a plan for a standard setting process to identify recommended passing scores in English-language arts and mathematics. The proposed recommendations will be presented to the State Board by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction at its June meeting. Student results will be distributed to school sites by August 15, 2001. Earlier prototypes of the student reports will be revised to include pass/fail information for each part of the test. Individual results will be reported by major strands of the content standards for reading, writing, and mathematics. It will not be possible to show how students did on individual test items, but items from the test forms administered in March and May will be released on the Internet, except for field test items or items that will be used for linking test forms. All writing tasks administered this spring will be released.

For More Information...

For more information about any of the state assessments, contact the Standards and Assessment Division of the California Department of Education at (916) 657-3011 (phone), at (916) 657-4964 (fax), or at star@cde.ca.gov (e-mail), at www.cde.ca.gov (Internet). Your questions will be directed to the appropriate person.